

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA

ONE HUNDRED FIRST LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE BILL 489**

Introduced by Sullivan, 41; Dubas, 34; Flood, 19; Gloor, 35;  
Hadley, 37; Karpisek, 32; Rogert, 16; Stuthman, 22;  
Wallman, 30.

Read first time January 20, 2009

Committee: Health and Human Services

A BILL

- 1 FOR AN ACT relating to health care; to adopt the Area Health
- 2 Education Centers Act.
- 3 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1           Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as  
2 the Area Health Education Centers Act.

3           Sec. 2. For purposes of the Area Health Education Centers  
4 Act, area health education center means a private, nonprofit  
5 organization that has a cooperative agreement in effect with the  
6 University of Nebraska Medical Center for the purpose of planning,  
7 developing, and operating an area health education center program  
8 and that has as one of its principal functions identifying and  
9 implementing strategies and activities that address health care  
10 workforce needs in underserved urban communities and federally  
11 designated rural or nonmetropolitan communities.

12           Sec. 3. Area health education centers shall:

13           (1) Develop and implement strategies to recruit into  
14 careers in health care professions individuals (a) from underserved  
15 urban communities, (b) who grew up in, resided a substantial  
16 portion of their life in, or attended high school in a federally  
17 designated rural or nonmetropolitan community, and (c) from  
18 underrepresented or rural populations into health careers;

19           (2) Develop and implement strategies to foster and  
20 provide community-based training and education to individuals  
21 seeking careers in health professions within underserved areas  
22 and populations for the purpose of developing and maintaining  
23 a diverse health care workforce that is prepared to deliver  
24 high-quality health care in underserved urban communities and  
25 federally designated rural or nonmetropolitan communities;

1           (3) Develop and implement strategies to retain health  
2 care professionals providing health care services to underserved  
3 urban communities and federally designated rural or nonmetropolitan  
4 communities;

5           (4) Prepare individuals to provide health care services  
6 more effectively to underserved urban communities and federally  
7 designated rural or nonmetropolitan communities through field  
8 placements or preceptorships in conjunction with community-based  
9 organizations, accredited primary care residency training programs,  
10 community health centers, Indian health centers, public health  
11 departments, or other appropriate facilities;

12           (5) Conduct and participate in interdisciplinary training  
13 of health profession students including, but not limited to,  
14 physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, nurse  
15 midwives, dentists, behavioral and mental health providers, public  
16 health professionals, and other health professionals, as feasible;

17           (6) Develop, deliver, or facilitate continuing  
18 education and information dissemination programs for health care  
19 professionals, with an emphasis on individuals providing health  
20 care to underserved urban communities and federally designated  
21 rural or nonmetropolitan communities;

22           (7) Collaborate in the development of well managed  
23 health care delivery systems in underserved urban communities  
24 and federally designated rural or nonmetropolitan communities; and

25           (8) Propose and implement effective program and outcomes

1 measurements and evaluation strategies.

2           Sec. 4. Before entering into a cooperative agreement with  
3 an area health education center, the University of Nebraska Medical  
4 Center shall ensure that an area health education center:

5           (1) Is a private, nonprofit organization whose structure,  
6 governance, and operation are independent from the University of  
7 Nebraska Medical Center;

8           (2) Designates a geographic area or medically underserved  
9 urban community or federally designated rural or nonmetropolitan  
10 community to be served by the area health education center and does  
11 not duplicate, in whole or in part, the community or population  
12 served by any other area health education center;

13           (3) Fosters networking and collaboration among  
14 communities and community-based health care providers;

15           (4) Serves urban communities and federally designated  
16 rural or nonmetropolitan communities with a demonstrated need for  
17 health care professionals;

18           (5) Addresses the health care workforce needs of the  
19 communities served; and

20           (6) Evaluates the performance of the area health  
21 education center based on the criteria set out in section 3 of this  
22 act and reports the findings on an annual basis.

23           Sec. 5. To assist area health education centers in  
24 carrying out the Area Health Education Centers Act, the University  
25 of Nebraska Medical Center shall:

- 1           (1) Serve as a resource to area health education centers;  
2           (2) Encourage collaboration between pertinent programs  
3 administered by the University of Nebraska Medical Center and the  
4 area health education centers;  
5           (3) Take into consideration the capabilities of the  
6 existing area health education centers prior to establishing  
7 separate or parallel programs; and  
8           (4) Evaluate the performance of the centers based on the  
9 criteria set out in section 3 of this act and report the findings  
10 to the Governor and Legislature annually.